

In the Specification:

Please amend equation (2) on page 9, line ¹²~~18~~, and the following text on lines ¹³⁻¹⁴~~19-20~~, *JB*

as follows:

carbon dioxide evolution rate ($\mu\text{mol/h}$) = $(V \text{ [[0.1]]} \times 10^3 \times M/2) / \text{[[60t]]} \text{ (t/60)}$, *8/14/06*

wherein M is the molarity of the alkaline concentration of the solution, V is a volume of the increment of the alkaline solution in milliliters, and t is the time increment in minutes.